HEALTH
31 JUL 1945
O.R.

28th July 1945.

LIBRARY

STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1944.

LIBRARY

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report for the year 1944 with corresponding statistics on various subjects for the preceeding years:- 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943.

Complying with Circular No. 2604, 24/3/42 from the Ministry of Health particulars of population and other matter shown in this Report will not be given to the Press for publicity.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	4,576
Residential Population (Registrar General's Figure)	6,623
Number of inhabited Houses	1,776
Rateable Value	£39,511. 0. 0.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£159.10. 6.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Legitimate - Male, 57 Female, 46)
Illegitimate- Male, 3 Female. 5) Total 111.

1944 Birth Rate	16.75
1943	15.85
1942	11.06
1941	11.77
1940	11.99
1939	12.49

Deaths

Male, 43 Female, 37)	Total 80
1944 Death Rate	12.07
1943	12.62
1942	9.86
1941	11.36
1940	10.12
1939	9.92

Deaths of Infants under One Year

Legitimate - Male, 4 Female, 2)
Illegitimate - Male, 0 Female, 0) Total 6

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)

1944	54. 0
1943	38. 8
1942	54. 5
1941	23. 2
1940	31. 9
1939	27. 3

Still Births

Legitimate - Male, 0 Female, 0)
Illegitimate - Male, 0 Female, 0) Total 0

1944 Still Birth Rate	0.00
1943	0.15
1942	0.29
1941	0.27
1940	0.31
1939	0.34

For purposed of comparison, the rate for the smaller towns of England and Wales are given:-

Birth Rate	20.9
Death Rate	12.4
Infant Mortality Rate	44.0
Still Birth Rate	0.61

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Diabetes	1	-	-	1	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	6
Tuberculosis	-	-	2	1	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases	-	1	1	1	1	-
Cancer	13	16	8	10	8	7
Vascular	9	3	5	12	9	-
Heart	22	22	21	27	21	21
Circulatory	2	6	2	3	1	4
Bronchitis	-	7	3	4	1	1
Pneumonia	3	3	2	2	3	4
Respiratory	-	2	1	1	2	1
Digestive	1	4	3	2	3	2
Stomach	-	1	-	1	-	-
Premature and Infant Deaths	4	-	4	2	4	1
Suicide	4	1	3	-	-	1
Road traffic, violent causes and all other causes	15	11	10	14	8	6
Nephritis	5	-	-	1	1	-
Appendicitis	-	1	-	-	1	-
Influenza	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diarrhoea	-	1	-	-	-	-
Infant Dis.	-	2	-	-	-	-
Senility	-	-	-	-	-	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified:-

	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Whooping Cough	4	16	-	12	1	-
Scarlet Fever	11	3	5	7	4	3
Opthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	-	-	-
Para Typhoid	7	-	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	2	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	3
Chicken Pox	9	-	5	50	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	4	-	-	-
Measles	17	25	6	144	4	-
Diptheria	1	-	-	5	2	13
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-
	56	45	24	219	12	20

The Scarlet Fever Cases were treated at the North Herts. Isolation Hospital.

PARA-TYPHOID B

There was a slight outbreak of Para-Typhoid B of a sporadic nature during June, July and August. 7 cases were notified - being sent to hospital and 3 nursed at home. A great deal of time was spent in investigating the source of infection, assisted by the medical staff of the Herts County Council and Ministry of Health, but the source was not established although milk was suspected.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPTHERIA

Doctors, Nurses and School Teachers have all co-operated to make a success of the scheme and the children have been immunised chiefly at their respective schools and a few at the Doctors' Surgeries.

About 89% of an estimated population of 457 children under 5, and,
83% of an estimated population of 940 children between 5 and 15 were immunised.

TYPHUS

A specially trained squad has been organised to combat this disease in case of emergency, which is part of a scheme for North Herts.

SCABIES

4 cases of Scabies were reported, which were sent to Letchworth for treatment.

SCHOOL INSPECTION

During the year children were examined at the various schools by the School Medical Officer. On the whole they were found in good physique, health, and in most cases their clothing was good.

COMMUNAL FEEDING

A large percentage of the School children have their mid-day meals regularly at a British Restaurant.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

(a) Medical. The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer holding a Diploma in Public Health. He is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District Councils of Baldock and Letchworth.
(b) Sanitary. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES, ETC.

Samples of water, milk, etc., are sent to the Public Health Emergency Hospital, Hertford, for bacteriological examination.

INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRE.

Good work has been accomplished at this Centre and on the whole most of the children who attended were free from head lice, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE RURAL, WATER SUPPLIES.

The Town is supplied by 2 water works Pumping plants both electrically operated with one steam stand-by from which a constant and normal supply of water is distributed by main to

all the houses with the exception of approximately 70 houses which are situated on the outskirts who obtain water from wells.

23 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination which gave the following results:- 19 satisfactory, 4 unsatisfactory, the latter coinciding with new boring operations and the last unsatisfactory sample dated 14th September, 1944.

WELLS - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

26 samples of water were taken from 8 wells for bacteriological examination, which were under suspicion of contamination and the results of the analyses showed 5 samples satisfactory and 21 samples unsatisfactory.

5 of the 8 wells were condemned and have been closed for drinking purposes and the consumers are being supplied with the town's water.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Town is provided with a foul sewer 24" diameter leading to bacterial treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works and a 36" surface water sewer discharging into a water-course, both of which give satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, AND SALVAGE

House refuse collection and the disposal of same and the cleansing of the Town is supervised and carried out in a very efficient manner by the Surveyor.

The refuse is disposed of by semi-controlled tipping.

During the year, 75 tons were salvaged which realised £330.

MORTUARY

A mortuary was erected in 1936 and is fitted for holding Post-mortem examinations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Total number of inspections for all purposes, 936, divided as follows:-

For defects under the Housing Acts	99
For defects under the Factories Act	10
For the prevention of Infectious Diseases	102
As to Sanitary conditions of Schools and Public Halls	4
Inspection under the Milk and Dairies Order	109
Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Vans, etc.	160
For the prevention of nuisances	60
Inspection of Drainage, etc.	63
Inspection of Provate Wells and sampling	87
Inspections re: Rats and Mice Destruction	41
Inspection re: Condemned Food	66
Inspections re: Shops Act, 1934	10

Miscellaneous

Inspection re: Storage of Petroleum	8
Inspection re: Employment Agencies	2
A.R.P. re: Food Decontamination	8
Inspection re: Welfare of Billeted Workers	25
Inspections re: Determination etc Rent	2

HOUSING

House to house inspection was carried out at a number of houses.

No private houses were erected during the year. On account of war conditions, shortage of labour, materials etc. this work has been somewhat restricted.

Although there has been an influx of Evacuees and work-people overcrowding has been kept down to a minimum ; only 4 cases were reported during the year.

Sanitary improvements were undertaken in existing dwelling houses, viz:

Re: Drainage	5
Sanitary improvements, including drainage	30
Other work for the abatement of nuisances (by informal action)	45

VERMINOUS PREMISES

5 houses were treated for vermin which were eradicated by spraying with a liquid vermin mixture named "Zaldecide".

An inspection of furniture, bedding etc. was carried out, this being done by the Local Authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply (Special Designations Order) 1936

26 samples of milk were taken for Bacteriological examination which gave the following results:-

Description	No. of samples	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	3	1	2
Accredited	16	13	3
Pasteurised	3	2	1
Unlicensed	4	2	2

National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme 46 samples of milk were taken from producer-retailers, which gave the following results:- Good 28, Moderate 16, Poor 2.

Meat and other Foods. There are 6 licensed slaughterhouses in the District, which owing to war conditions are not in regular use, which are kept up to a fair standard. Occasional slaughterings licensed by the Food Control Committee are carried out.

Reserved Food supplies are examined from time to time also foods suspected to be unfit for human consumption in shops, stores, etc., have to be certified by your Inspector before replacements can be made.

Bakehouses, manufacturers of preserved food and tradesmens' vans etc, are inspected with a view to keeping up a good standard of cleanliness.

TUBERCULOSIS PREVALENCE

Table of new cases and Mortality for the year

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5				1.				
5 -15			1.	1.				
15 -25								
25 -35	1.			1.				
35 -45								
45 -55								
55 -65				1.				
and over								
Totals	1.	NIL	1.	4.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Total No. of cases on the Register 28				
	7.	10.	4.	7.

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and other Senior Officials who have assisted me in compiling this Report.

Your obedient Servant,

Bertram Nesbit

Medical Officer of Health.